

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /087 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/CH:LBLEVINE:MG

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ARA/PAF:KMARSHALL (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 283532

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CI

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING, NOVEMBER 17

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1976:

Q: THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF -
I THINK IT SAID ALL BUT 20 POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD
WITHOUT CHARGE. THE SECRETARY SAID A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT
U.S.-CHILEAN RELATIONS WOULD BE IMPAIRED AS LONG AS THERE
WAS NO PROGRESS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRONT IN CHILE. DO
YOU HAVE ANY REACTION TO YESTERDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT?

A: WE CERTAINLY WELCOME IT. IT IS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.
WE WERE NOT SURPRISED. WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE
CHILEAN GOVERNMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THIS SUBJECT FOR ABOUT
THREE WEEKS ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THESE PEOPLE. WE
CERTAINLY WELCOME THEIR RELEASE.

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Q: WHERE WERE THE DISCUSSIONS HELD, WHAT LEVEL?

A: I DO NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS BEYOND THAT.

Q: BOB, ON THE SECRETARY --

Q: CAN WE FIRST FINISH UP ON CHILE?

A: YES, JIM.

Q: MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT A MONTH AGO CHILE SENT A
NOTE TO THIS GOVERNMENT SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT INTERESTED
IN ANY FURTHER AID BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PRESSURE THAT
WAS CONNECTED WITH IT. IS THAT NOW BEING WITHDRAWN?

A: YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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